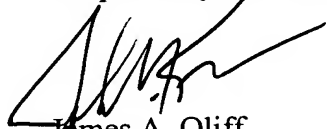


REMARKS

Claims 1-57 are pending in this application. By this Preliminary Amendment, the Abstract and specification are replaced with an amended Abstract and substitute specification, and claims 1-23 are amended. No new matter is added.

Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

John S. Kern
Registration No. 42,719

JAO:JSK/kap

Attachments:

Amended Abstract
Substitute Specification
Marked-up copy of Specification

Date: May 19, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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